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**Sen. Richard Schweiker**  
Secretary of HHS

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Once a maverick liberal who shunned the GOP stereotype, Sen. Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania shocked Republicans when he decided to join Ronald Reagan's ticket as a vice-presidential candidate in 1976.

Insisting at the time that he would not compromise his liberal, independent principles by running with Reagan, Schweiker lost some of his political fortunes in the gamble and, unable to preserve a solid constituency in Pennsylvania, decided not to run for re-election last November.

Yesterday, Schweiker was tapped to become secretary of health and human services in the Reagan administration.

His short-lived foray into presidential politics four years ago gave rise to charges that he was a political opportunist with shallow philosophical principles.

However, Schweiker, who in 1976 boasted "my independence is my life style," has insisted that his approach was simply flexible and pragmatic. He preferred to describe his union with Reagan as "striking a balance between conservative and liberal" in the Republican Party.

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Schweiker first received national attention in 1975 when, as a member of a select committee investigating the CIA, he challenged the Warren Commission's findings in its investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Pennsylvania senator, alleging that the FBI and CIA had covered up crucial evidence in the investigation, predicted that the commission's findings would collapse.

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